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## INSIDE WASHINGTON



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### Strange Wall Poster

WASHINGTON — Of all the recent "wall-poster" reports from Peking, none has baffled U.S. Intelligence authorities more than one quoting a conversation between Mao Tse-tung and his niece, a student of English.

The bizarre poster, appearing on Feb. 15, reported that Mao lectured his niece, Wang Hai-luong, "to read and translate Chinese classics and the Bible, especially 'the Apocalypse'" — a revelation of things that were, are, and will be.

Mao's niece was quoted as saying that "Our instructors will not let us read old books like the Bible, but that certain of my friends have read the book and the novel 'The Dream of the Red Pavillion.'"

#### CAUSED TROUBLE

The latter is an Eighteenth Century Chinese classic, often considered licentious and responsible for the disgrace and imprisonment of the noted Chinese critic Hu Feng in 1957. He was jailed after urging Chinese students to read the novel.

According to the wall poster, Wang's reply brought praise from Mao for her friends and some very unlike-Mao comments from the chairman of the Chinese Communist Party about the Bible.

"These are the best historical books in the world, and their language is very beautiful," Mao is reported to have said. He cited passages in both books and pointed out that they allow the reader a better understanding of the world today.

#### STRANGE WORDS

It was at this point, the wall poster indicated, that Mao reproached his niece for "not reading" the holy book, and made his suggestion on "returning to your studies and that translation of the Bible from English to Chinese be undertaken."

The latter suggestion is particularly startling since the Bible has been banned from Chinese bookstores and university libraries by Mao since he came to power in 1949.

The text of the wall poster, bearing the signature of the Peking cultural revolution group, was obtained by U.S. Intelligence authorities from a foreign government after a news agency in that country received it from one of its correspondents in Peking.

In an accompanying memorandum, the agency reported that the poster, completely different from others, had attracted lively curiosity among large crowds of readers before it was suddenly taken down.

#### SEEK CLUES

U.S. Intelligence experts on China are now studying the text to determine if it contained any message relating to the power struggle in China or any of the strange events that occur almost daily.

One group of experts is examining the remarks attributed to Mao in light of his earlier instructions against the destruction of Chinese literary classics to Chi-Pen-yun, a member of the cultural revolution group of the party's central committee. These instructions appeared in an earlier poster in January.

Another Intelligence group has been assigned to determine the accuracy of a report that the poster was put up by the anti-Mao faction.

In making their study, this Intelligence group is examining two theories. The poster was displayed to discredit the aged and ailing leader throughout the Communist world or as a warning that Mao is capable of touching off a nuclear holocaust.

About the only facts the two Intelligence groups have been able to agree on so far is that the poster did appear and that Mao has a niece named Wang Hai-luong, who is studying English to become an interpreter.

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#### IMPORTANT VISIT

Vice President C. K. Yen, of Nationalist China, could turn out to be one of the most important foreign visitors to call at the White House this year. An invitation for Yen to confer with President Johnson in May was triggered recently by a speech the Nationalist leader gave at a Freedom Day celebration last month in Taipei, Formosa.

Speaking as the representative of President Chiang Kai-shek, Yen indicated that the opportunity was near at hand for the Nationalists to move against Peking, stating:

"This is the opportunity to tear down the Iron Curtain and nip the bud for a threatened nuclear holocaust. It is my sincere hope that we will make unified efforts under the leadership of President Chiang to wipe out the Chinese Communists, recover the mainland, and build up a great republic. The time for action has arrived."

#### PRESIDENT ACTS

As soon as the full text of Yen's remarks became available at the State Department, Secretary Rusk fired off a recommendation to the White House. It urged the President to send Yen an "invitation to discuss his speech" and "to make sure that Chiang did not undertake operations against the mainland not in the interest of the U.S."

President Johnson didn't act on Rusk's recommendation until the State Department furnished him a second report revealing that Chiang had launched a series of military-intelligence gathering probes against the mainland.

The President was also informed that Chiang, in talks with U.S. diplomats, had taken the position that because of the limited size of units involved in the probes, his government was not under any treaty requirement to keep Washington informed of these operations, but that he would do so.

#### CIA OPERATORS

The two Central Intelligence Agency officials in charge of handling funds provided student groups and private foundations are Cord Meyers, former head of the World Federalists, and Tracy Barnes, a career employee.

Meyers, a close friend of the late President Kennedy, is in charge of the CIA's unvouchered funds, the money the agency is not required to account for to either Congress or the Budget Bureau. Barnes, a veteran CIA employee, has been in charge of the intelligence agency's contacts with groups within the U.S. since 1961.

In addition to students and foundations, these contacts include universities, law firms with foreign branches and refugee organizations, including Cuban exile groups.

These are some of the unpublished details of the CIA's international operations gathered by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee during periodic checks of the agency in recent years. In one instance, subcommittee investigators discovered that Dr. Walt Rostow, foreign policy adviser in the White House, received a CIA grant in 1954 while at Massachusetts Institute of Technology to make a study of Communist China.

Significantly, Rostow in his report forecast that Peking's economy would collapse before 1970, bringing internal strife and possible aggression against China's neighbors. Should a U.S.-China war develop, Rostow recommended against the U.S. adopting a policy of "unconditional surrender," contending that the existing structure of government would be needed to govern that country.

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